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Application No.: 09/684,457 October 5, 2000 Filed:

Inventor(s):

Burton A. Hipp

Virtual Port Multiplexing Title:

Examiner:

El Chanti, Hussein

A.

Group/Art Unit: 2157

Atty. Dkt. No:

5760-22600/VRTS

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

Lawrence J. Merkel

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND REMARKS

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action of July 14, 2004, to further highlight why the application is in condition for allowance.

Please amend the case as listed below.